

# The Sharp-Pencil Boys Take a Long, Hard Look

By VINCENT THOMAS  
Assemblyman, 68th District  
Sometimes we can get a clue as to where we might be headed by taking a long, hard look at the road we traveled to get where we are. Those sharp-pencil boys, the statisticians, even have a phrase for it, and call taking that look "developing the trend." Its importance in the field of state government has recently been well demonstrated by a report from our Legislative Analyst. To say the least, the picture of soaring state costs presented is anything but reassuring.

During the special session which followed our regular meeting earlier this year, the Senate adopted a resolution calling for an interim study of the "financial problems arising out of California's continuing growth of population, inflation, and expanding state responsibilities." This resolution was assigned for study to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, under which the Legislative Analyst operates.

THE ANALYST'S brief report brings up to date trend data which his office had previously prepared and made available to individual lawmakers and legislative committees, and also presents significant new material. It points out that the apparent intention of the resolution is to develop trends in state expenditures as they relate to a) growth in population; b) inflation, or price changes; and c) "expanding state responsibilities," which might be defined as including all expansions in authorizations for state functions and programs.

The report shows that total fiscal-year expenditures of California state government leaped 862 per cent from 1946 to the current year, from \$342 million to \$3.3 billion. During that same period, our total population has increased only 90 per cent, from 9.4 million persons to almost 18 million. The dramatic impact of this enormous increase in state spending is only too evident in the per capita figures, which eliminate the effect of population growth. In

## Sperry-Rand Gets Orders

Contracts for motor pump assemblies totaling \$1,343,742 are now being filled at Torrance's Sperry-Rand Corp. plant at 3201 Lomita Blvd. for Lockheed Missiles & Space Co., Sunnyvale, Calif.

Announcement of the contract, scheduled to be completed next March, was made by Harry W. Kohl, director of procurement for Lockheed.



ON CHURCH STAFF . . . The Rev. James P. Lowen, pastor of the Torrance Four-square Gospel Church, Arlington and Sepulveda, has announced the appointment of the Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Timmerman of Seattle, Wash., as assistants to the pastor and ministers of visitation. The Timmermans have been active in evangelistic work and as interim and supply pastors in the Northwest for 15 years.

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1946, per capita expenditures were \$36.20. By this year, they had climbed to \$183.13—a 406 per cent jump.

THE ANALYST cautions that elimination of inflationary, or

price increase factors, cannot be perfect for many reasons, and cites the fact that the effect of state salary increases and that of raises in commodity prices do not follow the same pattern. However, he does conclude that adjustment of actual dollar expenditures to 1946 "constant dollars" by use of the cost of living index, enables the closest possible approximation to the cost of "expanding state responsibilities." So adjusted, total annual state expenditures rose 503 per cent from 1946 to this year. Expressed in per capita amounts, they climbed 217 per cent during the same period. Contrast this leap with the estimated growth of personal income per capita. In the 18-year period since World War II, it has risen only 77 per cent.

Commenting on this steep rise, the Analyst said that his calculation shows in general that since the war, the Legislature has authorized new or expanded programs sufficient to triple the level of state service, even if population and prices had remained static.

These hard facts, which may be unpleasant to many of the "spend and prosper" school, will undoubtedly guide both our houses when the 1965 session considers proposals for added state service.

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